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Charles Bartlett's Washington

Civil Defense Shift Problems

The Budget Bureau is in the middle of a major struggle over the reassignment of civil defense activities, which are due for heavy emphasis in the preparations for the Berlin crisis. Defense Mobilizer Frank Ellis is struggling to hold all that he can and Secretary of the Army Ellis Stahr is anxious to avoid the responsibility. Secretary of Defense McNamara is willing to take the responsibility on the Defense level but he will want a man with rank equivalent to deputy secretary and talent sufficient to mount a major program.



Visiting a Georgetown antique shop recently to purchase a goodbye present from the cabinet wives of the Eisenhower Administration to Mrs. Richard Nixon, the eye of Mrs. Arthur Summerfield lighted upon a painting of two small dogs. The dealer argued hard against buying it as a gift for Mrs. Nixon but the more he argued, the more Mrs. Summerfield persisted. He was finally obliged to explain to her that the picture belonged to Mrs. John F. Kennedy and had been left with him to be sold. Mrs. Summerfield agreed that it would not be an appropriate gift for Mrs. Nixon.

Some 300 scholarships were allocated by the ICA to the Belgian Congo when it became independent last June 30. The program has been loosely administered

and those who have had contact with the students who are in Washington maintain that their visit has brought them little real opportunity to grow fond of the U. S. They have ties with the Negroes and almost no social contact with the whites. Most of them live in virtual isolation at a local hotel. Their circumstances underline the fact that the administrators of the vast scholarship program have made no provision for the extra-curricular activities of the visiting students.

The new CIA building in Virginia on the banks of the Potomac is perhaps more controversial than even Cuba or the U-2 incident. Even the Biblical quotation which Director Allen Dulles has ordered for its entrance — "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" is challenged as untrue by some critics. Others point out that the building will be too small for the whole agency and some say that the isolation will make it possible for agents to identify covert personnel on their way to and from work.

A CIA figure involved in the Cuban planning, Col. C. J. King, is also receiving private criticism for the fact that he has considerable business interests and extreme right wing connections in Latin America. Some suspect that King's influence may have been responsible for the anti-liberal factor in the preparations for the Cuban invasion and for the fact that some professional soldiers and policemen who served under Batista were given high rank in the invading force.